



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Director of Health Services
Director of Public Health

At its meeting held December 2, 2003, the Board took the following action:

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Supervisor Knabe made the following statement:

“Last week, the Director of Health Services learned that seven patients at two dialysis centers owned by the same operator (one in Norwalk and one in West Covina) were hospitalized with infections apparently acquired through their dialysis treatment.

“The County’s Acute Communicable Disease Control and Health Facilities Licensing Units are working to pinpoint the root cause and ensure that other dialysis patients are not infected. However, it is troubling that the initial cases date back to September 22, 2003, yet the Director of Health Services was not notified of this disease cluster until November 19, 2003. Further, it is unclear whether this notification was an official one or whether a concerned employee of the dialysis centers took it upon himself to notify the County.

“It is imperative that health officials are notified immediately of disease clusters and outbreaks so that the public’s health is protected. Reputable health providers should have no reason to hide reportable incidents, clusters of disease and other outbreaks from the County and this practice should not be tolerated. I think it important that we are assured that health providers are properly informed of their reporting duties.”

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Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Knabe, seconded by Supervisor Molina, unanimously carried, the Board instructed the Directors of Health Services and Public Health, in conjunction with County Counsel, to report back to the Board within 30 days to develop ways to improve and strengthen disease reporting procedures and requirements.

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Each Supervisor

Chief Administrative Officer

County Counsel